

News at a glance

Prairie View's band director dies

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (Houston Forward Times/NNPA) - Prairie View A&M University is mourning the death of Professor and Director of Bands George Edwards. He directed PVAMU's world renowned Marching Storm Band for 30 years before his death on May 28.



Edwards

Affectionately known around campus as "Prof Edwards," Edwards first arrived at Prairie View A&M in 1978. Under his tenure, the university's Marching Storm Band entertained audiences around the U.S. and the world and developed a reputation for its unique sound. Prairie View A&M's band, once known as the "Funky 50," was renamed under Edwards' leadership and vision in 1984.

Today, the Marching Storm is now considered among the most dynamic and skilled bands in the world for its unparalleled musical artistry, and electrifying and adventurous drum line, which is showcased during each performance.

A highlight in his distinguished career, Edwards directed the Marching Storm Band's inaugural performance in the 120th Tournament of Roses Association Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day 2009. Prairie View A&M's band was the first band to perform in the Rose Parade pilot program to include bands from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the parade each year.

SCLC promotes poverty march

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - The interim president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is promoting a June 30 march in Jackson, Miss., he says will revive civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Poor People's Campaign."

The march to the Mississippi capitol will begin on Fortification Street in downtown Jackson at 1 p.m.

Byron Clay told a group at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Norwood that the SCLC has a moral imperative to expose poverty, promote safe and decent housing and a working wage. King was the co-founder of SCLC in 1957.

Memphis mayor running for Congress

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Memphis mayor Willie Herenton says he's running for Congress.

Herenton's office confirmed that he has filed notice with the Federal Election Commission that he will be a candidate next year for the 9th District House seat from Memphis.

Herenton, 69, is in his fifth term in office and is the longest serving mayor in Memphis history.

He said in April that he was considering challenging incumbent Rep. Steve Cohen in the Democratic primary.

Herenton, a former superintendent of schools, is the city's first elected black mayor. He defeated a popular white incumbent in the closest mayor's race in Memphis history in 1991 and since then, has had little serious trouble winning re-election.

Memphis is majority black and Cohen is the city's first white member of Congress in more than three decades.

Former Rep. Harold Ford Sr. represented the 9th District for 22 years and was followed by Harold Ford Jr., who held the seat for 10 years before resigning to run for the U.S. Senate in 2006. He was not successful.

For much of the past year, a federal grand jury reportedly has been asking questions about Herenton's involvement in a downtown real estate project and an annual Christmas party organized under his name.

Grand jury witnesses have included a top Herenton aide and the mayor's son. Herenton says he has done nothing illegal.

Clinton: Franklin was 'angry, happy'

DURHAM (AP) - The late historian John Hope Franklin was "an angry, happy man" whose work as the head of a commission on race helped pull the country together, former President Bill Clinton said last Thursday.



Franklin

Clinton was one of a dozen speakers at a service at Duke Chapel to honor the Oklahoma native and his wife, Aurelia, who would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary last Thursday.

The former president elicited laughter from the crowd when he related a story about Franklin handling a woman's racial insensitivity in 1995, the night before the historian was to receive the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

A white woman approached Franklin at a gathering he was holding at a club in Washington, D.C., ordering him to get her coat from the check room. Franklin wrote in his autobiography, "Mirror to America," that he advised the woman to approach a club employee, all of whom wore uniforms.

"Now, we're laughing," Clinton said. "But the man was 80 years old. He was perhaps the most distinguished living American historian. He did write this in a funny way. And he wrote it in a way that you knew he didn't think it was funny. He was a genius at being a passionate rationalist. An angry, happy man. A happy, angry man."

Franklin, who taught for a decade at Duke University and was a professor emeritus of history, died in March at age 94. His wife died in 1999.

In 1997, Clinton appointed Franklin to lead his Initiative on Race. Because of that report and Franklin's work on it, "we are a different country."

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Raleigh's Cooper featured on stamp

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON

Educator, scholar, feminist, activist and North Carolina native Anna Julia Cooper, who gave voice to the African-American community during the 19th and 20th centuries — from the end of slavery to the beginning of the Civil Rights movement — was immortalized on a postage stamp last week.

Cooper, best known for her groundbreaking collection of essays and speeches, "A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South," also exhibited educational leadership, most notably challenging the racist notion that African Americans were naturally inferior.

The U.S. Postal Service dedicated the stamp at Washington, D.C.'s Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, where Cooper taught math and science and ultimately served as principal.

"Anna Julia Cooper once said, 'The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class — it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity.' Her actions to support these memorable words during her life are the reason the Postal Service has chosen Ms. Cooper as the subject of the 32nd stamp in the Black Heritage series," said Delores Killete, vice president and Consumer Advocate.

Cooper was born into slavery around 1858 in Raleigh. As a child, she developed a love of learning and wanted to become a teacher. In 1868, she received a scholarship to enter the inaugural class at St. Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute (now St. Augustine's College), a school for African-Americans created by the Episcopal Church and the Freedmen's Bureau, where she earned part of her tuition by tutoring fellow students. She continued to teach at St. Augustine's after completing her studies in 1877. That year, she married George A.C. Cooper, who was studying for the ministry at St. Augustine's.

Two years after her husband's unexpected death in 1879, Cooper enrolled at Oberlin College in Ohio. In 1884 she graduated with a degree in mathematics, becoming one of the first African American women to graduate from the school. Cooper returned to Raleigh and taught math, Greek and Latin at St. Augustine's until 1887, when she was invited to teach math and science at the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth (later known as M Street and today as Dunbar High School) in Washington, DC, the largest and most prestigious public high school for African Americans in the nation.

In 1892, Cooper published "A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South," the first book-length volume of black feminist analysis in the United States.

Cooper retired from teaching at Dunbar High School in 1930 but continued to give lectures, publish essays, and be active in com-

See Cooper on A10

Kennedy suggests right-wing TV hosts are spurring violence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON, Miss. - Robert Kennedy Jr. says that some right-wing broadcast hosts are feeding the sort of hatred behind this year's rise in hate crimes.



Kennedy

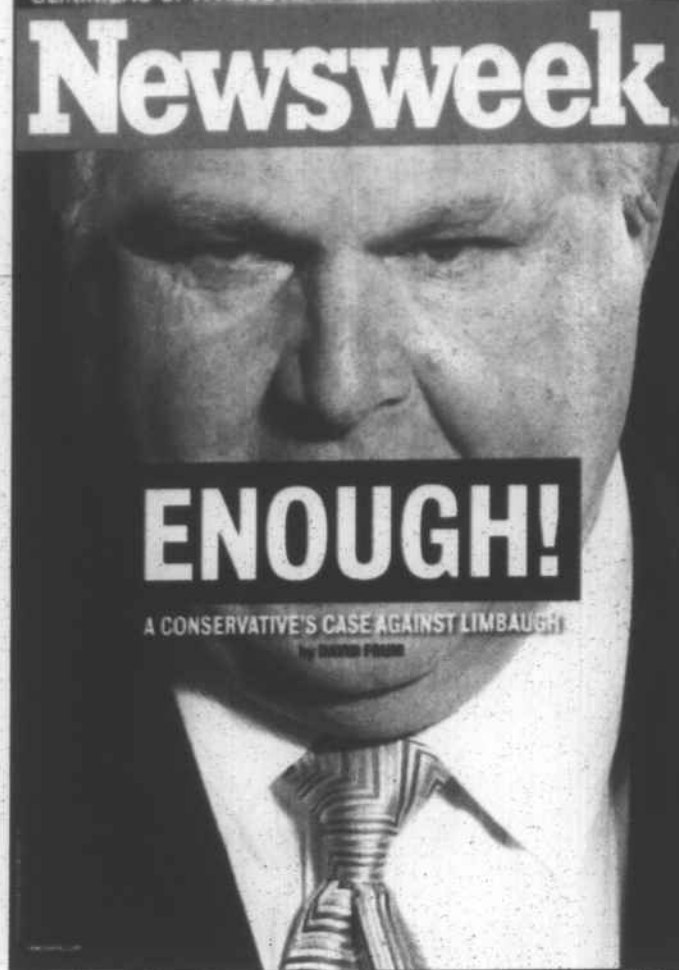
In Jackson for a memorial for slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, Kennedy said Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly and Glenn Beck are among those who have drummed up anger against abortion doctors and others. "They're driving this kind of hatred," Kennedy, co-host of the Ring of Fire radio show, said in a brief session with reporters last Friday after his speech.

"If you listen to right-wing radio, including so-called Christian channels, there is little to do with Jesus Christ's values," he said.

Kennedy had been asked what he thought was the reason for the increase in killings such as the fatal shooting of a security guard at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and last month's killing of abortion provider Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kan.

Kennedy was the keynote speaker for a longstanding annual memorial to Evers,

GLIMMERS OF A RECOVERY THE 'DOCTOMOM' EXPLAINED



Rush Limbaugh on the March 16 cover of Newsweek.

the Mississippi NAACP leader who was killed outside his home in Jackson on June 12, 1963, during Robert F. Kennedy's term as attorney general.

Kennedy said his father wrote separate letters to him and each of his eight brothers and sisters the night of Evers' murder, saying Evers

had died fighting for his country.

"That crystallized the importance of what Medgar Evers had done," he said. "The battles he and others fought helped to make this nation a true constitutional democracy."

See Hate on A10



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